

**Practitioner's Docket No. MPI00-343P1RM****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 3 and 5 and amend claims 4, 6, 7 and 8 as follows:

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and
  - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
3. cancelled herein
- 4.(twice amended herein) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least ~~90%~~ 95% identical to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof;
  - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least ~~30~~ 150 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof;
  - (c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least ~~about 90%~~ 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least ~~10~~ 50 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;  
wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having acyltransferase activity.
5. (cancelled herein)
6. (amended herein) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.

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7. (amended herein) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
8. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.
9. The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.
10. A host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 9.
11. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.
- 12-43 (cancelled)